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AAA
NEWS
BRIEFS

Facts

for

NORTHEAST COMMITTEEMEN

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RESEARCH LABORATORIES WILL SEEK NEW CROP USES

When Congress passed the 1938 Agricultural Adjustment Act, it authorized the expenditure of \$4,000,000 to establish four regional research laboratories, one in each of the four major farm-producing areas. These laboratories will attack, through science and technology, the problem of developing new and extended outlets and markets for the main surplus agricultural commodities in their areas, and constitute one of several main lines of attack upon farm problems in the coordinated program of the Department of Agriculture.

The laboratory for the eastern region is now being constructed at Wyndmoor, Pa., near Philadelphia. It is expected to be completed early next summer. Through its staff of about 200 scientists, it will conduct research aimed to develop new uses for surplus farm commodities of the region, giving first attention to potatoes, tobacco, milk products, apples, and vegetables.

Speaking recently at the ceremony of laying the cornerstone for the Northern Regional Laboratory at Peoria, Illinois, Secretary Wallace said:

"Searching for outlets for farm products is not a new field for the Department of Agriculture. It has been doing such work in a limited way for 25 or 30 years, but the laboratories mark the first attempt by the Department to undertake a program on a Nation-wide basis. These laboratories are being created primarily to search for wider outlets for farm crops, particularly the surplus crops.

"I believe these laboratories will be a valuable asset to our national farm program. But they won't solve all of our farm problems and we shouldn't lead people to believe they will. The national farm problem is the result of a combination of many troubles that have accumulated over a period of years and it will take more than one remedy to cure the disease.

"Crop insurance, farm security, soil conservation, and parity payments deal with other specific problems. All have a place in a well-rounded farm program and all can contribute their bit toward the solution of the national problem."

PENNSYLVANIA TELLS AAA STORY TO URBAN GROUPS

A total of 177 meetings were held throughout Pennsylvania by county committeemen between May 1 and November 1 at which the AAA farm program was explained to farmers, rural and city businessmen, urban groups, vocational agriculture students, and others. Attendance is estimated at approximately 30,000 people. At these meetings, arranged and conducted by the committeemen, the moving picture, "The River," which tells the story of soil erosion by floods, was shown. The meetings were preceded by an informal luncheon or dinner which enabled the members of the group to become better acquainted.

Similar meetings have been widely held in the ten States of the North Central Region. During the first six months of 1939, county committeemen in those States conducted over 900 meetings which were attended by about 92,000 people.

Several States in the Northeast Region are interested in holding these informal discussion-type of meetings with local business people, and it is anticipated that county get-togethers of this kind will have a place in the programs of many county committees this winter. At these meetings businessmen will have an opportunity to learn the problems of agriculture in the county, to discuss the Agricultural Conservation Program, and to learn how farmers are using it to meet their problems.

STATE AND COUNTY OFFICES BUSY

State and county offices are completing the work of the 1939 program, and holding community and county election meetings in preparation for next year. The bulk of applications for payment to farmers who participated this year are expected in the Washington office by mid-December.

In those States where lime and superphosphate are furnished through the Agricultural Conservation Program, orders for delivery on the 1940 program are being taken by farm checkers as they visit farms to check compliance. Some of the States are already delivering these materials to avoid rush and delay next spring. County potato and tobacco acreage allotments for 1940 are expected to be in the State offices by the last of November.

Most of the States in the Northeast Region are explaining the 1940 Agricultural Conservation Program at the community election meetings. The details of the soil-building practices for next year are completed, and the list for each State is now ready.

Of 3-1/2 million farms in Southern States, more than 400,000 have no chickens, more than 900,000 have no milk cows, 800,000 have no gardens, more than 2 million have no plowable pastures for the feeding of livestock. Evidently there is room for considerable expansion without danger of competition to other Regions.

AAA EXHIBITS SHOWN AT 31 FAIRS

Exhibits featuring the AAA program were shown at 31 fairs in the Northeastern States this fall with an estimated attendance of one million people. The fairs ranged in size from the one- and two-day show of the rural town, to the large State and regional expositions.

AAA fair exhibits this year were of three types: A large exhibit for use at State and regional fairs; a smaller exhibit for county and local fairs; and a background poster, in color, also for use at the smaller fairs. State and county committees cooperated in the showing of these exhibits.

This year is the first time that AAA has had an exhibit designed especially for county and local fairs. Five of them were used in the Northeast Region. Comments from the county offices indicate that this type of AAA exhibit was well received by committeemen, fair officials, and the public.

At nearly all of the fairs the exhibits were accompanied by locally-prepared displays showing the use and progress of the conservation program in the county or State. Reports from county offices indicate that the exhibits received many favorable comments. Highlights of some of the reports are, "Exhibit attracted as much attention as any in the building," "Fair officials gave exhibit a prominent place," "Farmers asked questions about the program and some work was done on participation for 1940," "Interest shown by high school boys and girls was notable," "One of the chief attractions of the fruit building." One county reported that spectators said they "did not realize before that the program was of benefit to the consumer."

Although the 1939 fair season is over, the county AAA exhibits are still available for use at winter meetings of farmers or other groups where the AAA farm program story can be told.

MORE LIME AND SUPER USED ON NORTHEAST FARMS

Northeastern farmers are making large increases in the amount of lime and superphosphate used on their farms. Eight States in the Region are distributing one or both of these materials through the Agricultural Conservation Program this year. On November 3, the seven States which furnish superphosphate had distributed an equivalent of 30,346 tons in the triple form, as compared with 7,877 tons in the five States which supplied it last year. The amount of lime furnished shows a much greater increase with eight of the nine States now supplying it. Distribution amounted to 245,496 tons on November 3, compared with 14,749 tons in four States last year.

New York, which began furnishing lime in August of this year, leads the Region in that material, with 106,206 tons ordered by its farmers up to November 3. In Pennsylvania the lime and superphosphate furnished through the program is used for pasture improvement only. Vermont is the leading State in the amount of superphosphate supplied, with 12,621 tons distributed to its farmers as of November 3.

FOOD ORDER STAMP PLAN BROADENS FARMERS' MARKETS

Providence, R. I. has recently been added to the growing list of cities in which the Food Order Stamp Plan for the distribution of surplus farm products to needy people is to be put in operation. The Stamp Plan represents one of several attacks by the national farm program upon the problems of agriculture. Through it, surpluses of farm products which would otherwise depress the price to farmers are taken off the market and distributed to people who need the food but are unable to purchase it in the normal manner. Distribution is made through the usual channels of trade.

Speaking on the the subject "Agricultural Aspects of Food Stamp Plan Operations" before the recent annual meeting of the National Association of Food Chains, Milo Perkins, President of the Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation, said, in part, "Based upon our experience to date, it appears that about one-quarter of the stamps are being used for butter and another one-quarter for eggs. Approximately 31 percent is being divided among the fresh fruits and vegetables. The Stamp Plan makes possible a much broader market for farmers producing those commodities for which there is an elastic demand, such as dairy products, poultry products, fruits, and vegetables."

NORTHEASTERN GROWERS INSURE 82,999 ACRES OF WHEAT

Nearly 7,000 farmers in New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania have taken out insurance on their 1940 wheat crop. By States, premiums have been paid by 908 growers in New York, 110 in New Jersey, and 5,896 in Pennsylvania, or a total of 6,914 premiums, more than double the number issued in those three States last year. They paid as premiums 46,517 bushels of wheat to insure 82,220 acres which next year will yield an estimated 1,194,300 bushels.

This year 194 Northeastern wheat growers received indemnities for loss or damage to their 1939 crop. They received 10,996 bushels of wheat with a total cash value of \$7,594 to reimburse them for their losses. Through the crop insurance program of the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, wheat growers can insure their crop against a loss up to 75 percent of their normal yield from such risks as flood, fire, drought, hail, insects, or disease.

SIX MILLION FARMERS CONSERVING SOIL

"Through the Triple-A nearly 6 million farmers are this year taking part in the National Farm Program and for every farm a part of this participation means definite work to improve the soil. . . . The practices vary from State to State and from region to region, but the essential thing to remember is that farmers in all parts of the country are actively taking steps to improve and conserve the soil. This is a gain that must be preserved at all costs." (R. M. Evans, Administrator, AAA.)